

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 12465 171747Z
ACTION PM-04

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R 171558Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8644
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USCINCEUR

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FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, BE, LU, US
SUBJECT: ODC/BELLUX STAFFING

REF: (A) STATE 289655, (B) LUXEMBOURG 1158

1. I HAVE READY AMBASSADOR GINN'S MESSAGE ON THE MANNING FOR THE OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION -BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG PROPOSED FOR FY 77 AND IN THE NSSM 243 AND HAVE ALSO CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE IN-HOUSE REVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS EMBASSY.

2. THE OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION-BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG IS A UNIQUE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION AND I BELIEVE IT WARRANTS STAFFING COMMENSURATE WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. A TWO-COUNTRY MISSION WITH SIGNIFICANT SECURITY ASSISTANCE INTERESTS; I.E., F-16, A1FV, AWACS, ETC. SIGNIFICANT CINCEUR BILATERAL MISSIONS WITH BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG ARE ENTRUSTED TO THIS ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS BELGIAN ASSISTANCE TO REFORGER, COLOCATED OPERATING BASES,
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 12465 171747Z

JOINT STORAGE REQUIREMENTS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. I AM CERTAIN THAT ADDITIONAL NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WILL JOIN THE LEST IN THE FUTURE. BOTH EMBASSIES DEPEND UPON THIS ORGANIZATION TO CONTINUE TO REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS IN THESE ISSUES.

3. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW, I WOULD LIKE TO REVISE OUR EARLIER ENDORSEMENT OF A MANNING LEVEL OF 3 MILITARY OFFICERS, 2 US CIVILIANS AND 3 LOCAL HIRE (BRUSSELS 9122). I CONSIDER THIS NUMBER TOO LOW TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH EMBASSIES. I REQUEST THE ADDITION OF ONE MILITARY OFFICER AND ONE LOCAL HIRE OVER PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED POSITIONS. I AM AWARE OF THE LEGISLATIVE CEILING. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THAT TWO COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE EITHER TO INTERPRET THE EXISTING LAW TO PERMIT THIS MANNING LEVEL OR TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO AMEND THE LAW TO THIS END.

4. OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL WOULD BE ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS:
A-06 AF CHIEF; 1 -06 ARMY SECTION CHIEF AND ARMY REPRESENTATIVE TO LUXEMBOURG; 1-05 ARMY REPRESENTATIVE TO BELGIUM AND ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO LUXEMBOURG; AND 1-05 AF OFFICER (THE ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE OFFICER WILL BACK UP THE CHIEF IN THE CRITICAL AIR FORCE PROGRAMS); 2 US CIVILIANS (1 SECRETARY AND ONE ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST); 4 LOCAL HIRE (1 SECRETARY, 1 ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY FOR CONTRACTOR AND VISITOR SUPPORT; 1 ACCOUNTANT RESPONSIBLE FOR ODC BUDGET REVIEW, TDP CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE, FAP ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESIDUAL MAP ACCOUNTABILITY; AND 1 DRIVER). THE POSITIONS REQUESTED ARE PRESENTLY MANNED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ONE ADDITIONAL MILITARY. ONE E-8 WV DEPART IN FEBRUARY AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE REPLACED BY A U.S. CIVILIAN (FY 77 PROPOSED MANNING). ONE LOCAL HIRE (CONTRACTOR & VISITOR SUPPORT) IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO DEPART IN FEB 77 (SHE RECEIVED SIX MONTHS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 12465 171747Z

TERMINATION NOTICE 1 OCT 76). A RECENT REVIEW OF THIS POSITION AND CURRENT WORKLOAD OF ODC HAS ESTABLISHED THE NEED TO RETAIN THIS POSITION.

5. I BELIEVE THIS REQUEST, ALTHOUGH ONLY SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN THE PREVIOUS MAAG MANNING, ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE WORKLOAD NOW IMPOSED ON THE ODC. THE INTENT OF CONGRESS IS BEING MET-THE ODC IS NOT OUT IN THE FIELD GIVING ADVICE AND ENCOURAGING ARMS PURCHASES; THEY ARE SERVING THE VITAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF TWO NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND PROVIDING THE EMBASSIES WITH TOP QUALITY SUPPORT AS FULLY INTEGRATED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAMS. FIRESTONE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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